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Relationship and Sex Education Policy (RSE)

Version: 5.0

Issued Date: September 2025

Next Review Date: September 2026

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(Chair of Governors)

CONTENTS PAGE	2
INTRODUCTION.....	3
SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT	3
DEFINING RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION	4
VALUES AND VIRTUES.....	4
AIM OF RSE AND THE MISSION STATEMENT.....	4
INCLUSION AND DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING	5
EQUALITIES OBLIGATIONS.....	6
PARENTS AND CARERS.....	6
BALANCED CURRICULUM	6
RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEACHING THE PROGRAMME	6
OTHER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING RSE.....	7
RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES AND CURRICULUM SUBJECTS	7
SUPPORTING PUPILS WHO ARE AT RISK	7
CONFIDENTIALITY AND ADVICE	7
MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	8

INTRODUCTION

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Pupils can also put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives. These subjects can support young people to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support.

High quality, evidence-based and age-appropriate teaching of these subjects can help prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. They can also enable schools to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, at school and in society. The duties on schools in this area are set out in legislation.

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education.

All schools may teach about faith perspectives. In particular, schools with a religious character may teach the distinctive faith perspective on relationships, and balanced debate may take place about issues that are seen as contentious. For example, the school may wish to reflect on faith teachings about certain topics as well as how their faith institutions may support people in matters of relationships and sex.

In all schools, teaching should reflect the law (including the Equality Act 2010) as it applies to relationships, so that young people clearly understand what the law allows and does not allow, and the wider legal implications of decisions they may make.

(Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers)

The teachings of Islam do not shy away from the topics of relationships and sex. The school is founded upon Islamic ethos. It aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Islam. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Islamic values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

This policy exists in order to provide appropriate information on Islamic family life and sexual health education for young people without undue influence from their peers, media or society.

Cambridge Street School believes that Relationship and Sex Education is much too important to be left to chance and therefore, as of January 2021, it is part of a planned, coherent and relevant health education programme.

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

In this policy the Governors, Head Teacher, RSE coordinator, in partnership with parents, set out their intentions about relationships and sex education (RSE). We set out our rationale for, and approach to relationships and sex education in the school.

Knowing about facts and enabling young people to explore differing viewpoints is not the same as promoting behaviour and is not incompatible with our school's promotion of Islamic morals and values.

DEFINING RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION

And it is among His signs that He has created for you wives from among yourselves, so that you may find tranquillity in them, and He has created love and kindness between you. Surely in this there are signs for a people who reflect. (Holy Qur'an, Surah Ar-Rum 30:21)

The DfE guidance states that *"Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way."* Ibid, Page 4

It is about the development of the pupil's knowledge and understanding of him as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience.

In Secondary schools, RSE should *"give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship. It should also cover contraception, developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure). It should teach what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships. This will help pupils understand the positive effects that good relationships have on their mental wellbeing, identify when relationships are not right and understand how such situations can be managed."* Ibid, Page 25

VALUES AND VIRTUES

The DfE guidance states, "This should be complemented by development of personal attributes including kindness, integrity, generosity, and honesty." 3

Our programme enshrines Islamic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, sanctity of marriage, rights of husband and wife, significance of a stable family unit and its impact on society.

Pupils will also discover the noble example of Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) in kindness and love in his relationships.

The RSE programme also promotes those virtues which are essential in responding to human dignity with a proper respect for their dignity and the dignity of the human body. The following virtues will be explicitly explored and promoted: Taqwa (God-consciousness), Ihsaan (excellence/perfection) faithfulness, Hayaa (inhibition/bashfulness) chastity, integrity, mercy and compassion.

AIM OF RSE AND THE MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement commits us to the education of the whole pupil (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural, emotional) and we believe that RSE is an integral part of this education. Furthermore, our school aims state that we will endeavour to raise pupils' self-esteem, help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes. It is in this context that we commit ourselves:

In partnership with parents, to provide young people with a positive and prudent sexual education which is compatible with their physical, cognitive, psychological, and spiritual maturity, and rooted in an Islamic belief of recompense and accountability to our creator, Allah SWT.

Objectives

To develop the following attitudes and virtues:

- reverence for the gift of human sexuality and fertility;
- respect for the dignity of every human being – in their own person and in the person of others;
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures;
- responsibility for their own actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others;
- celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life;
- fidelity in relationships.

To develop the following personal and social skills:

- making sound judgements and good choices which have integrity, and which are respectful of the individual's commitments;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying;
- managing emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, with confidence, sensitivity and dignity;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy and compassion, learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures, recognising the influence and impact of the media, internet and peer groups and so developing the ability to assess pressures and respond appropriately;
- being patient, delaying gratification and learning to recognise the appropriate stages in the development of relationships, and how to love chastely;
- assessing risks and managing behaviours in order to minimise the risk to health and personal integrity.

To know and understand:

- Islam's teaching on relationships and the nature and meaning of sexual love;
- Islam's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;
- the facts about human reproduction, how love is expressed sexually and how sexual love plays an essential and sacred role in procreation;
- how to manage fertility in a way which is compatible with their stage of life, their own values and commitments;
- how to keep themselves safe from sexually transmitted infections and how to avoid unintended pregnancy, including where to go for advice.

Outcomes

INCLUSION AND DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING

We will ensure RSE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances; for example, their own sexual orientation, faith or culture and is taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination.

Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help.

EQUALITIES OBLIGATIONS

The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, pregnancy, maternity, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked-after children.

PARENTS AND CARERS

Parents/carers will be informed by letter/email when the more sensitive aspects of RSE will be covered in order that they can be prepared to talk and answer questions about their daughter's learning. Parents have been consulted and this policy was ratified by the governors.

They will be consulted at every stage of the development of the RSE programme, as well as during the process of monitoring, review and evaluation. They will be able to view the resources used by the school in the RSE programme. Our aim is that, at the end of the consultation process, every parent and carer will have full confidence in the school's RSE programme to meet their daughter's needs. Parents continue to have the right to withdraw their children from Sex Education except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science content. Should parents wish to withdraw their daughter(s) they are asked to notify the school by contacting the head teacher. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning. We believe that the controlled environment of the classroom is the safest place for this curriculum to be followed. Please refer to the DfE guidance Page 17 for further details on the right to be excused from sex education (commonly referred to as the right to withdraw).

BALANCED CURRICULUM

Whilst promoting Islamic values and virtues, we will ensure that pupils are offered a balanced programme by providing an RSE programme that offers a range of viewpoints on issues. Pupils will also receive clear scientific information as well as covering the aspects of the law pertaining to RSE relating to forced-marriage, female genital mutilation, abortion, the age of consent and legislation relating to equality).

Knowing about facts and enabling young people to explore differing viewpoints is not the same as promoting behaviour and is not incompatible with our school's promotion of Islamic teaching.

We will ensure that pupils have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEACHING THE PROGRAMME

Primary responsibility for the specific relationships and sex education programme is delegated to the RSE/PSHE Coordinator who will consult the Head teacher throughout curriculum planning process.

However, a cross-curricular approach will include input from science, RE and Islamiat curriculum.

The physical aspects of growing up will be covered in Term 3 and the emotional and social aspects will be covered in term 4. Subject Staff in Science, RE, Tafseer and Fiqh will also cover broader issues.

OTHER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING RSE

Governors

- draw up the RSE policy, in consultation with parents and teachers;
- ensure that the policy is available to parents;
- ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies.
- ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children;

Head teacher

The Head teacher takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Governing Body and parents.

PSHE/RSE Co-Ordinator

The co-ordinator with the head teacher has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RSE.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES AND CURRICULUM SUBJECTS

This RSE policy is to be delivered as part of the PSHE framework. It includes guidelines about pupil safety and is compatible with the school's other policy documents (for example, Anti-Bullying policy, Safeguarding Policy etc) Pupils with particular difficulties whether of a physical or intellectual nature will receive appropriately differentiated support in order to enable them to achieve mature knowledge, understanding and skills. Teaching methods will be adapted to meet the varying needs of this group of pupils. Learning about RSE in PSHE classes will link to/complement learning in those areas identified in the RSE audit.

SUPPORTING PUPILS WHO ARE AT RISK

Children will also need to feel safe and secure in the environment in which RSE takes place. Effective RSE will provide opportunities for discussion of what is and is not appropriate in relationships. Such discussion may well lead to disclosure of a safeguarding issue. Teachers will need to be aware of the needs of their pupils and not let any fears and worries go unnoticed. Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is a victim of or is at risk of abuse they are required to follow the school's safeguarding policy and immediately inform the DSL.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND ADVICE

All governors, all teachers, all support staff, all parents and all pupils must be made aware of this policy, particularly as it relates to issues of advice and confidentiality. All lessons, especially those in the RSE programme, will have the best interests of pupils at heart, enabling them to grow in knowledge and understanding of relationships and sex, developing appropriate personal and social skills and becoming appreciative of the values and attitudes which underpin the Islamic faith.

Pupils will be encouraged to talk to their parents/carers about the issues which are discussed in the programme. Teachers will always help pupils facing personal difficulties, in line with the school's pastoral care system.

Teachers should explain to pupils that they cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, in matters which are illegal or abusive for instance. Teachers will explain that in such circumstances they would have to inform others, e.g., DSL, but that the pupils would always be informed first that such action

was going to be taken.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Head teacher and RSE Co-ordinator will monitor the provision of the various dimensions of the programme by examining plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils work at regular intervals.

The programme will be evaluated every two years by means of questionnaires / response sheets / needs assessment given to pupils, and / or by discussion with pupils, and parents. The results of the evaluation should be reported to these groups of interested parties and their suggestions sought for improvements. Governors will consider all such evaluations and suggestions before amending the policy. Governors remain ultimately responsible for the policy.

VERSION HISTORY

Issue Date	Version Number	Approved By
September 2021	1.0	Head Teacher & Governors
September 2022	2.0	Head Teacher & Governors
September 2023	3.0	Head Teacher & Governors
September 2024	4.0	Head Teacher & Governors
September 2025	5.0	Head Teacher & Governors